SPAWN
image
319
DIGITAL EDITION
TODD MCFARLANE
CARLO BARBERI

WORLD RECORD BREAKING COMIC!

SPAWN

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SPAWN CREATED BY
TODD McFARLANE

PREVIOUSLY IN *SPAWN*

Previously: The world of Spawn's Universe has blown open. After barely surviving a second trip to Omega Spawn's tropical island, Al has realized there are even more Shadow Players than he thought. Who is Jericho? And what are his plans for Cy-Gor?

image

TODD McFARLANE
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POSITANO, ITALY.
A ROMANTIC, SMALL VILLAGE FILLED WITH SOOTHING SEA AIR AND THE AROMA OF DOZENS OF EATERIES.

LOCALS AND TOURISTS ALIKE LOVE THE MANY CHOICES TO ENJOY FINE FOOD.
ONE SUCH LOCAL FAVORITE IS CANTINA del ROMA, ESTABLISHED IN 1918. BUT THE MAIN REASON MANY COME IS FOR GINO SPADILLO, THE RESTAURANT'S KIND OWNER.

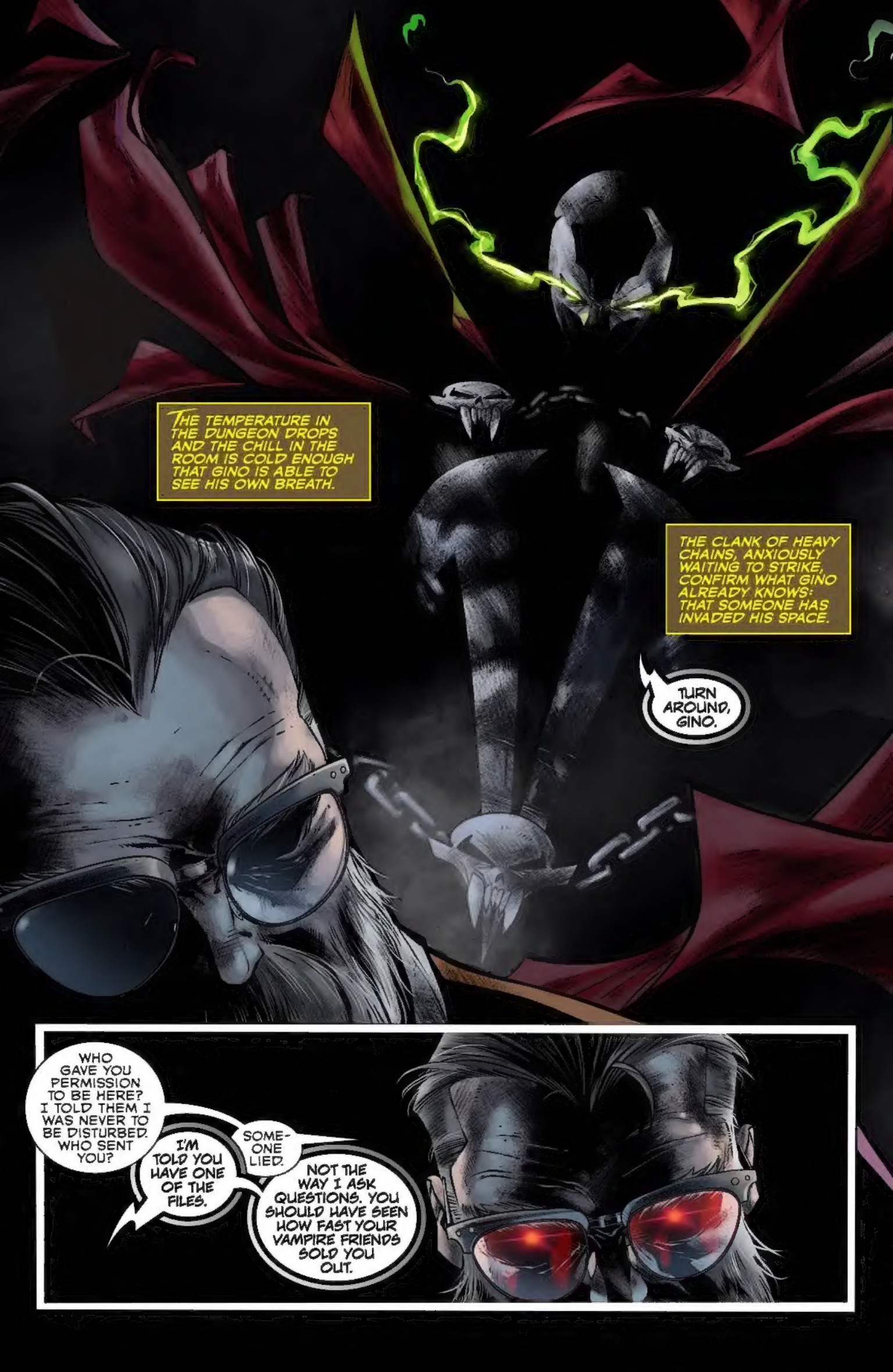
AH! A WONDERFUL SELECTION YOU TWO LOVEBIRDS HAVE MADE. I PROMISE YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED. AND, PLEASE, A GLASS OF WINE ON ME WOULD BE MY PLEASURE.

ANTHONY, HOW ARE YOUR PARENTS? DID THEY ENJOY THEIR VACATION?
THEY HAVEN'T STOPPED TALKING ABOUT IT. AND THEY ARE VERY GRATEFUL FOR THE GIFT BASKET YOU SENT TO THEIR HOTEL.
IT'S FOR THEIR YEARS OF SUPPORTING MY CAFÉ.

WAITER, COOK, BARTENDER, GINO STILL HELPS WITH ANY TASKS THAT MAY HELP OUT HIS STAFF.

I HAD MY CHEF ADD A SPECIAL TOUCH TO YOUR ENTRÉE. I HOPE YOU WILL LIKE.
HIS MANNERS WITH HIS GUESTS HAS BECOME LEGENDARY AROUND HERE.
OH MY! THIS IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL BABY MY EYES HAVE SEEN. I DARE SAY EVEN MORE ADORABLE THAN MY OWN CHILDREN WERE.
GOOD EVENING, MRS. GIOVANNI, YOUR ELEGANCE AND GRACE ARE ALWAYS WELCOME HERE.
STOP, YOU'RE MAKING ME BLUSH.
ARRIVEDERCI! ENJOY THE REST OF YOUR TRIP.
GINO, IS THERE ANOTHER BOTTLE OF PINOT GRIGIO FOR TABLE FIVE?
I'LL GET ONE.
BOSS, NO, THAT'S NOT YOUR...
IT IS MY JOB AND I KNOW EXACTLY WHERE IT IS IN THE CELLAR.

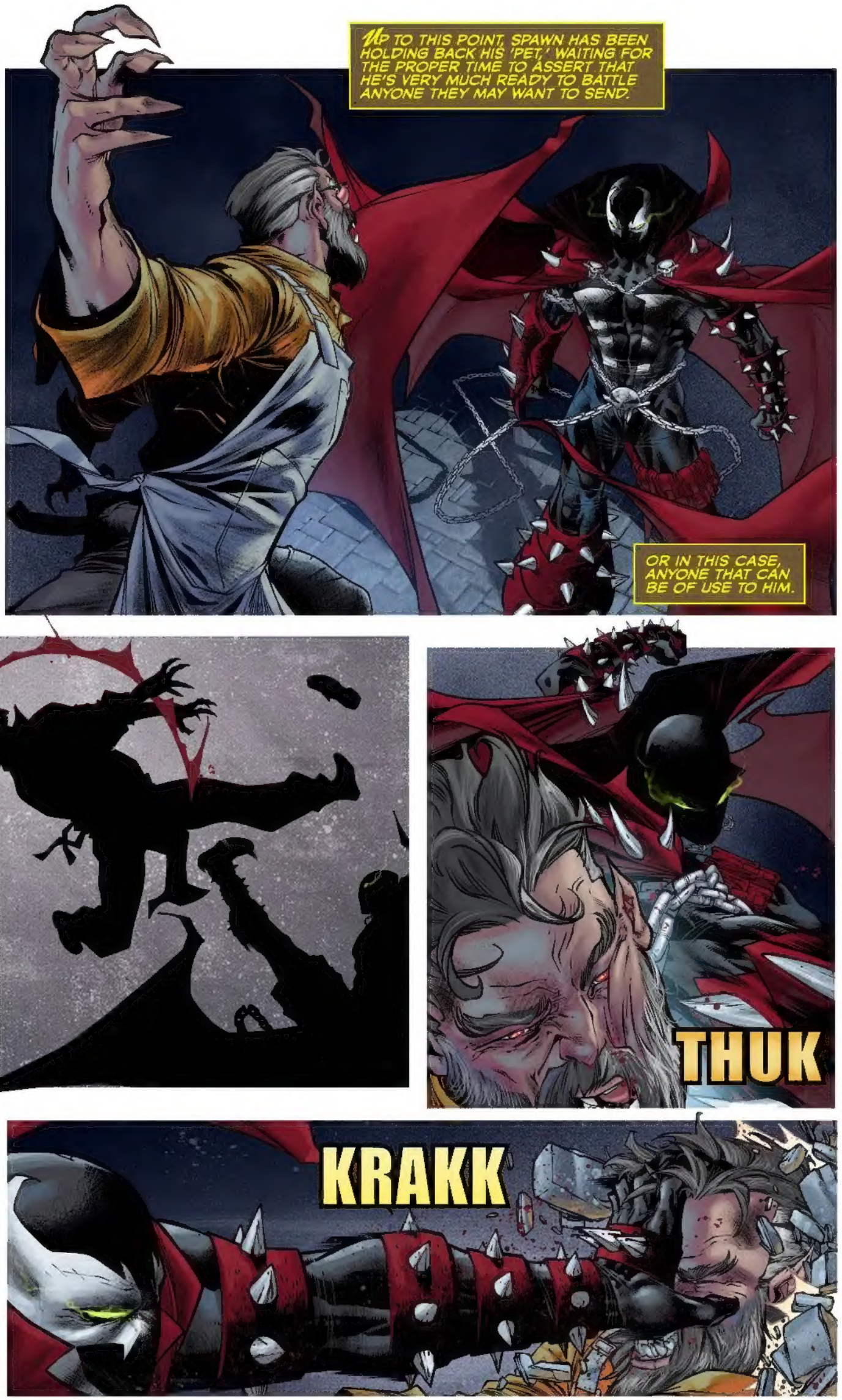
DOWN A LONG HALLWAY IS A MAGNIFICENT SELECTION OF SOME OF THE WORLD'S MOST FAMOUS WINES.
BUT A FAINT SOUND HE HEARS ISN'T TO HIS LIKING. HE OPENS A DOOR HIDDEN BEHIND A WINE RACK.
I'M THIRSTY... I NEED WATER.
I TOLD YOU BEFORE-- SILENCE! IS ALL I WILL TOLERATE. UNLESS YOU WISH TO BE TORTURED MORE?
I HAVE NONE. WOULD YOU LIKE WINE INSTEAD?
THEN, JUST AS HIS LAUGHTER DIES DOWN, THE CANDLES SUDDENLY GO DARK.


THE TEMPERATURE IN THE DUNGEON DROPS AND THE CHILL IN THE ROOM IS COLD ENOUGH THAT GINO IS ABLE TO SEE HIS OWN BREATH.
THE CLANK OF HEAVY CHAINS, ANXIOUSLY WAITING TO STRIKE, CONFIRM WHAT GINO ALREADY KNOWS: THAT SOMEONE HAS INVADED HIS SPACE.
TURN AROUND, GINO.
WHO GAVE YOU PERMISSION TO BE HERE? I TOLD THEM I WAS NEVER TO BE DISTURBED. WHO SENT YOU?
I'M TOLD YOU HAVE ONE OF THE FILES.
SOME-ONE LIED.
NOT THE WAY I ASK QUESTIONS. YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN HOW FAST YOUR VAMPIRE FRIENDS SOLD YOU OUT.

FANGS BARED, GINO ATTACKS WITH THE QUICKNESS OF AN ELITE ATHLETE. CATCHING SPAWN OFF GUARD FOR A SPLIT SECOND.
LONG ENOUGH FOR THE NOW BLOOD-THIRSTY VAMPIRE TO GET THE JUMP.
CRAK
HITTING SPAWN LIKE A BULL-- FULL FORCE!
WUMP

LOOK AT YOU, YOU'RE NOTHING!
WHOEVER SENT YOU DIDN'T DO THEIR HOME-WORK. I'VE HAD PUNKS LIKE YOU COME AFTER ME FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS. NONE OF THEM WERE WORTHY! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BE THE FIRST, NOW BEG ME... MAYBE I'LL MAKE THIS A QUICK DEATH.
BUT FIRST YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME WHO SENT YOU.
SPAWN RISES TO HIS FEET, STRONG AND DEFIANT.
SPAWN?
THEY SAID THEY KILLED YOU.
YOU THINK I'M HURT?! YOU'RE NOT THAT GOOD. AND I'M HERE ALONE, NO ONE SENT ME, BUT THEY SHOULD HAVE TAUGHT YOU WHAT A HELLSPAWN LOOKED LIKE.
SOMEONE LIED.

AS HE SPEAKS, HIS RED CLOAK STARTS TO MORPH, TRANSFORMING FROM LEATHERY CLOTH INTO VEINED WINGS.
THE MASTERS YOU SERVE, THEY THINK THEY'VE GOT THE EDGE, THAT SOMEHOW, I'M TOO WEAK TO TAKE THEM ON. THEY'LL TELL THEIR ARMY TO CONTINUE THEIR MISSION, TRYING TO BUILD THE CONFIDENCE OF THEIR WARRIORS. AND I HOPE THEY DO, BECAUSE THEY'LL FIND OUT THEY'VE ALL BEEN LED TO THEIR OWN SLAUGHTER.
BECAUSE ABSENT OF LIGHT, IN DARKNESS LIKE THIS PRISON ROOM... I THRIVE! IT'S PERFECT FOR ME!
THAT'S BECAUSE A PORTION OF THE SYMBIOTE SPAWN WEARS HAS A TOUCH OF VAMPIRIC BLOOD COURSING THROUGH IT, TOO.


UP TO THIS POINT, SPAWN HAS BEEN HOLDING BACK HIS 'PET,' WAITING FOR THE PROPER TIME TO ASSERT THAT HE'S VERY MUCH READY TO BATTLE ANYONE THEY MAY WANT TO SEND.
OR IN THIS CASE, ANYONE THAT CAN BE OF USE TO HIM.
THUK
KRAKK

FOR NEARLY THREE MINUTES, SPAWN SLAMS, GUTS, RENDS AND TOSSES HIS ENEMY AROUND WITH EFFORTLESS EASE
YOUR FILE! WHERE IS IT?
ENDING WITH A FINAL INSULT NO VAMPIRE CAN EVER RECOVER FROM
I BELIEVE YOU LOST YOUR FANGS. NOW...
YOU GOING TO F*CKIN' TELL ME WHAT I WANT?
pik
NOT SURPRISINGLY, SPAWN GETS HIS ANSWERS

THEN TOSSES THE RESTAURANT OWNER BETWEEN THOSE HE'S IMPRISONED
BAP
AS OUR HERO WALKS AWAY THOSE STILL CHAINED BEG FOR THEIR FREEDOM
please... save us! come back, don't... go.
NECRO-PLASM LITERALLY SEALS THE DOOR SHUT FOREVER
I WASN'T HERE TO SAVE YOU. NEVER WAS. I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, KNOW THE TWO OF YOU MURDERED ALL THOSE CHILDREN IN THAT SYRIAN VILLAGE...THAT WAS YOUR FIFTH VILLAGE, WASN'T IT?
SO, I DON'T GIVE A SHIT IF YOU EVER GET OUT OF HERE...BUT I'VE GIVEN YOU A CHANCE TO EXACT REVENGE ON YOUR CAPTOR. DO WHATEVER YOU WANT.

AT THE FAR END OF THE CELLAR ARE A DOZEN BOTTLES THAT EMPLOYEES UNDERSTAND TO NEVER USE
Slice
THEY THOUGHT THOSE BOTTLES WERE THE HIGH-END WINES THAT ONLY A COLLECTOR OF RARE WINES WOULD WANT TO PURCHASE. THAT STORY HAS BEEN TOLD FOR GENERATIONS, HELPING TO HIDE A SECRET THAT HAS BEEN HIDDEN BENEATH FLOOR-BOARDS IN ANOTHER SMALL ROOM.
KRAK
clik

HEAVEN AND HELL HAVE WAGED THEIR WARS FOR EONS AND AS PART OF THOSE BATTLES THEY'VE ALSO HIDDEN THOUSANDS OF LOYAL AGENTS ACROSS THE PLANET AS THEY BUILD POWERBASES CAPABLE OF DESTROYING THEIR ENEMY AND SUBJUGATING HUMANITY
INVISIBLES
SPAWN'S MISSION IS TO FIND THEM THEN KILL THEM ONE AT A TIME
NEW YORK CITY NEW YORK
THOUGH THIS CITY HOUSES SOME OF THE RICHEST, MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE ON THE GLOBE, IT ALSO HAS ITS FAIR SHARE OF UNDER-SERVED AND NEGLECTED AREAS WHERE THOSE JUST TRYING TO SURVIVE THE DAY CAN SEEK SHELTER FROM THEIR DAILY GRIND
AND FOR MOST OF THEM, THIS WILL BE AS GOOD AS IT GETS
PIZZA

ONE OF THESE LOST SOULS IS DETECTIVE SAM BURKE, A VETERAN OF THE N.Y.P.D. FOR MORE YEARS THAN HE'D LIKE TO COUNT
ZZZ
PIZZA
FREEZE! MOTHER F*CKER..!!

HELLO, SAM.
DON'T YOU "HELLO" ME! I WAS ABOUT TO BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF, YOU DUMBASS! I DON'T TAKE KINDLY TO TRESPASSERS.
I SEE THAT.
WHAT'D'YA WANT?
WHERE'S TWITCH?
YOU KIDDIN' ME?! YOU WALTZ IN HERE, GIVE ME A HEART ATTACK AND ALMOST GET A HOLE IN YOUR HEAD, TO ASK ABOUT TWITCH?
I LOOKED, COULDN'T FIND HIM. HE'S NOT HOME.
HE'S ON VACATION, NUMB-NUTS! TOOK HIS FAMILY WITH HIM. THAT'S WHAT REAL HUMANS DO.
ANYTHING ELSE YOU NEED?
PIZZA

GIVE THIS FILE TO TWITCH WHEN YOU GET THE CHANCE.
WHAT'S IN IT?
NAMES, AND A LIST OF CORPORATIONS.
THESE ARE SOME HEAVY HITTERS. WHY AREN'T YOU DOING YOUR 'BOOGIE-MAN' THING ON THEM.
I'M BUSY DEALING WITH THE NON-HUMAN PIECES. THOUGHT TWITCH COULD FOLLOW SOME OF THE MONEY EXCHANGING HANDS. AND AS A WARNING; EVERYTHING IS STARTING TO BOIL AT ONCE. THOSE EARTHQUAKES YOU'VE BEEN READING ABOUT...THEY'RE PART OF IT.
THOUGH SAM HAS NEVER SEEN EYE TO EYE WITH SPAWN, HE UNDERSTANDS THE MAGNITUDE OF WHAT MAY BE COMING.
MEANING?
IF I DON'T GET A HANDLE ON THIS SOON, FIND SOME OF THESE "SHADOW PLAYERS," IT MAY BE TOO LATE.
SO, I COULD USE SOME HELP.

OR IN SOME CASES, WHAT MAY ALREADY BE HERE
TARGET CONTAINED AT BAY THIRTEEN, READY FOR TRANSPORT. ALL EQUIPMENT FROM THE ISLAND HAS BEEN OFFLOADED, AND ON THE ROAD ALREADY.
CONFIRM DESTINATION THEN REPORT TO JERICHO.
13
ROGER.
JERICHO, WE AWAIT YOUR ORDERS.
OUR MISSION HAS SHIFTED GENTLEMEN, BECAUSE OF OUR SETBACK ON THE ISLAND, CY-GOR NOW BECOMES OUR PRIMARY ASSET.
THE HELLSPAWN WILL RETURN FOR HIS COMRADE, AND WHEN HE DOES, THIS TIME OUR TRAP MUST WORK. COGLIOSTRO WASN'T THE BAIT WE THOUGHT WE NEEDED.*
*See SPAWN'S UNIVERSE #1 – Todd

SEDATED AND ALREADY RECOVERING FROM HIS BOUT WITH THE NEW VILLAIN DISRUPTOR, CY-GOR IS INCAPABLE OF DOING ANYTHING IN HIS CATIONIC STATE.
JERICHO HERE. NOTHING WAS DESTROYED THAT YOU HAD YOUR MONEY INTO. SPAWN AND THE GUNSLINGER ESCAPED WITH MINIMAL DAMAGE TO THE FORTRESS.
YES, I UNDERSTAND THE AMOUNT OF MONEY YOU'VE INVESTED AND IT IS OUR TOP PRIORITY TO MAKE SURE YOU GET FULL VALUE FOR IT. I'VE CALLED IN SOME FAVORS FROM A COUPLE OF HEAVEN'S ROGUE PLAYERS...
...THEY'LL BE HERE IN A FEW DAYS. BUT CY-GOR IS STILL OUR BEST BET TO LURE SPAWN BACK TO US.
AND WHY WILL YOUR PLAN WORK ANY DIFFERENT THE NEXT TIME? WE NEED SPAWN... I NEED HIM! SO, I MAY HAVE TO TAKE MATTERS INTO MY OWN HANDS.
THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY, SIR.
THAT'S WHAT YOUR PEOPLE SAID LAST TIME.
THE MYSTERY MAN HANGS UP HIS PHONE AS MEDICAL STAFF GIVE HIM HIS REQUIRED INJECTIONS.
THOSE MEDICINES ALONG WITH THE ALTERED OXYGEN TANKS ARE NOW THE ONLY THINGS KEEPING THIS MAN ALIVE.
HOURS BEGIN TO PASS.

INSIDE THE TRANSPORT TRUCK, THE EFFECTS OF CY-GOR'S DRUGS APPEAR TO BE FADING
HIS AGITATION GROWING BY THE SECOND
ENGAGE MASK AND PREPARE THE GAS! SUBJECT NEEDS CALMING.
RELEASE!
A STRANGE MIST OF SMOKE FILLS THE MASK
YET, IT HAS THE OPPOSITE OF ITS INTENDED EFFECT
BECAUSE INSTEAD OF CALMING THE GREAT BEAST, HE'S HAVING AN ALLERGIC REACTION THAT'S FEEDING HIS FRENZIED RAGE!

KLAT!
A RAGE THAT WON'T BE CONTAINED INSIDE THE REFORTIFIED STEEL WALLS OF A FORTY-EIGHT FOOT TRAILER... NO MATTER HOW HIGH-TECH IT MAY BE
RRIP
KOOM!
Skreeeeeee
THE TRAILER CRASHES TO THE GROUND ON ITS SIDE. BUT BEFORE ANY AUTHORITIES EVEN GET A REPORT OF THIS DISASTER, SOMEONE WAS ALREADY THERE WAITING. SOMEONE FROM ABOVE...
I'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.

HE LANDS ON THE TRAILER LIKE A NAVY SEAL GOING INTO COMBAT READY FOR THE ENEMY HE'S ABOUT TO FACE, DRIVEN BY HIS DISGUST AT THE FAILURES OF THOSE WHO CONSTANTLY REMIND HIM OF THEIR SUPERIORITY. BUT SO FAR, THOSE FROM HEAVEN AND HELL HAVE ACCOMPLISHED NOTHING!
IT'S TIME TO LET A HUMAN HAVE A CHANCE
FIGHT ALL YOU WANT, MONSTER! BUT YOU DON'T LEAVE MY SIGHT UNTIL SPAWN ARRIVES. AND THEN WE'LL SEE WHO'S GOT MORE POWER-- A HELLSPAWN OR A SOUL CRUSHER-- MADE OF FLESH AND BONES!
THE CLARION CALL HAS BEEN SENT
TO BE CONTINUED

0:3:6:6

SPAWNING GROUND

PRESENTS:

THE BREAKDOWN

INTERVIEW WITH TODD McFARLANE... *BY YOU*

What was your favorite story arc from the Spawn run so far and why?
– Adam L

Not sure that I have a favorite arc. There are certainly issues here and there, scattered through the decades, that I am particularly proud of based on art or character development. But I'd like to think that my best work is still ahead of me in the future. I try not to critique my own work too much. I will just move onto the next issue. That's how you get to #319.

Will we know more about characters like The Freak and The Curse?
– Francisco M

Short answer, YES! One of the main reasons for the new Spawn's Universe is to be able to give more room to some of the neglected characters that the fans have come to love. I can't tell all these stories in just one monthly book, so I had to expand. That's why we decided to start Spawn's Universe. With some time and a bit of your patience, we will be able to get to your favorite characters and explore them some more.

How is current day Spawn different from how you originally envisioned his future in the 90s? What are some meaningful ways the story grew into something better and were there aspects that left you disappointed?
- Ryad H

Spawn is pretty much tracking how I had envisioned it. I knew it would start as a "Superhero" book and then take a turn into the creepy and dark. It's evolved just like Spawn's costume. I feel that this is a different book today than it was in the '90s, and that kind of was the point for me. I wanted it to evolve and change.

Issue 301 cover by **TODD McFARLANE**

Will "The Art of Spawn" statues make a comeback? If so, could I recommend Spawn #301 cover? Spawn holding up a crown.
– Selim M

Yes. We have already been discussing this internally. We are talking about bringing back a line of figures based on covers. Stay tuned!

What is your writing process like? Do you plan on bigger stories or focus more issue to issue?
- Eddie K

Way more "issue to issue". Most full-time writers would be horrified by my process. I know my editor Thomas is. Sure, we have major plot points planned out ahead of time but the individual stories in the issues are written on the fly. It works for me due to how organic it is.

Is there a power or change you thought about making to Spawn but never did and why?
– Thomas B

It's interesting. Your question and a few others have been pretty similar. I am 300+ issues in and everything that I have wanted to do so far, I have done. I can do it because there is no one here that can tell me no. I like having no regrets about the things I've put in the book. The bad analogy is making a sandwich at home. You make it the way you like. You don't put things on it that you don't want to eat.

The Curse by **GREG CAPULLO**

Sam and Twitch Book 1 cover by **ASHLEY WOOD**

Is there a chance for all of Sam & Twitch to be collected in a Compendium?
- David S

We would have to check the material and see how much of it we can logistically fit into a book like the compendiums. But with the latest news that broke with Sam & Twitch and Hollywood, those chances have certainly increased.

When you're inking a page do you prefer to do it digitally or the old-fashioned way? Do you think one way has a better outcome than the other?
- Leasa H

I am pretty much all digital these days. Digital vs. Pencil & Ink, both have pros and cons. I do digital due to the efficiency and speed I have developed compared to doing it on paper. As well as the ability to work almost anywhere. Including the beach!
I would say that whatever method allows you to practice hours at a time is the method that you should focus on.

Do you have a question for Todd about the upcoming Spawn's Universe? If so, e-mail it to us at: **spawninggground@mcfarlane.com**, and next month, we'll pick a few for Todd to answer!

VELVET
ROYAL CITY
LAZARUS
EAST OF WEST
I KILL GIANTS
THE WALKING DEAD
KING CITY
SEX CRIMINALS
KILL OR BE KILLED
CURSE WORDS
RAT QUEENS
SPAWN
BLUE MONDAY
MONSTRESS
CHEW
HOWTOONS
SUNSTONE
DESCENDER
PAPER GIRLS
OCTOPUS PIE
BITCH PLANET
SAGA
PLUTONA
NAILBITER
CAMP MIDNIGHT
ODDLY NORMAL
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